

REMARKS

In the final Office Action, claims 1-5 were allowed, claims 6, 7, 10-12, 14-17 and 19 stand rejected, and claims 9, 13 and 18 merely were objected to as depending from a rejected claim. Claim 8 was canceled previously.

The Amendment After Final dated November 3, 2005 added the allowable subject matter from claim 13 into independent claim 12, which rendered claims 12 and 14-19 patentable. Claim 13 was cancelled. That amendment was entered so that claims 1-7, 9-12 and 14-19 are pending prior to this amendment.

Applicant's attorney appreciates the courtesy extended by Examiner Ko during the telephone interview on January 9, 2006. In that interview, it was agreed that claims 1-5, 12, and 14-19 were allowable in their present form, leaving claims 6, 7, and 10-11 rejected and claim 9 objected to as depending from a rejected claim. Also discussed was a proposed amendment incorporating the subject matter of allowable claim 9 into rejected independent claim 6. Examiner Ko indicated that such an amendment to claim 6 would appear resolve the remaining patentability issues and place the application in a condition for allowance.


The present amendment combines claims 6 and 9 into a revised claim 6 and cancels claim 9, thereby rendering the remaining rejected claims allowable. Therefore, claims 1-7, and 11, 12 and 14-19 will be pending following entry of this amendment.

Conclusion

Applicant requests entry of this amendment, as well as reconsideration and allowance of the present application are requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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